

Dear LegCo members,

I am writing to support the Accredited Register (AR) Scheme proposed by HKPS-DCP. I think that the proposed AR can uphold the professional standard of the quality of CPs in order to protect public health in Hong Kong.

Recently, I heard that there is a group of people who reject the establishment of AR. Some of them obtained their doctoral degree from other countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. They said that by having their doctoral degree abroad, they should immediately be considered as qualified clinical psychologist in Hong Kong. I totally disagree with this allegation. If we look into the worldwide system, we learnt that people who want to get a license as a registered clinical psychologist in places other than their home country, they have to be registered locally by going through examination or fulfilling the local professional requirement in that particular country. The reason is simple. The quality of doctoral programmes in clinical psychology over the world varies. Firstly, some universities/ institutions which offer clinical psychology programme do not get their local regional accreditation. Secondly, some clinical psychology programmes do not get professional accreditation in their countries. Thirdly, internship is usually required in clinical psychology programmes but again, some do not get the internship accreditation. Graduating from an accredited programme does not guarantee one to become a licensed psychologist as different places have different requirement in their accredited register system. For instance, graduates from a programme organized by CityU SCOPE and Alliant International University/California School of Professional Psychology (AIU/CSPP) cannot get the license to be clinical psychologists in the United States as they do not have any internship in the US or pass the license examination there. In view of the varying qualities of graduates regarding their doctoral programme and internship, the proposed AR is of valid important to distinguish and identify qualified professionals to work as clinical psychologists in Hong Kong. This is a very important step to safeguard the public health in Hong Kong.

Thank you very much for your work on the proposed AR and I would like to express my deepest appreciation to you.

Best regards,
Vivian Mak